21st CENTURY SCHOLARS SENIOR EXIT PRESENTATION



TOPICS

- Keeping the 21st Century Scholar Pledge and Completing the Senior Affirmation form
- 2) Completing the Federal Application for Federal Student Aid by the state deadline of March 10th
- 3) Preparing for and Applying to College
- 4) Maintaining your Scholarship Eligibility

KEEPING THE 21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS PLEDGE AND COMPLETING THE SENIOR AFFIRMATION FORM

SCHOLARS PLEDGE TO:

- Graduate with an Indiana High School Diploma from a stateaccredited high school
- Achieve a cumulative high school GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
- Not use illegal drugs or alcohol, or commit a crime or delinquent act
- Apply for admission to an eligible Indiana college or university as a high school senior
- Apply on time for student financial aid (by March 10th of the student's senior year of high school)

SENIOR AFFIRMATION FORM

- You cannot receive your 21st Century Scholarship unless you have submitted your Affirmation Form
- Affirmations must be received by March 10th of your senior year
- You cannot submit an Affirmation Form if you have violated the 21st Century Scholars Pledge. Students who do so and receive the scholarship can be required to pay back all scholarship funds

WAYS TO AFFIRM

You can submit your Affirmation Form:

- 1) Online
- 2) By Paper

Completing an Affirmation Form online is the quickest and easiest way to affirm.

HOW TO AFFIRM ONLINE

- Affirm online by visiting
 Scholars.IN.gov/affirmation
- Complete and sign the form with your parent or legal guardian
- Print and save a copy of your confirmation page

HOW TO AFFIRM BY PAPER

- Download a PDF of the form by visiting: <u>www.in.gov/21stcenturyscholars/files/Affirmation_Form.pdf</u>
- Complete and sign the form with your parent or legal guardian
- Mail it to the address listed on the form by March 10

MORE INFORMATION

- Make sure you fill out your Affirmation Form accurately and completely
- Be sure to provide your expected high school graduation date and the name of your high school
- Your Affirmation Form may be selected for additional verification. You must comply with all verification requests to receive the Scholarship

VERIFYING YOUR GPA

- You must graduate with at least a cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a
 4.0 scale to be eligible for the Scholarship
- Your counselor will report your cumulative high school GPA to the state 21st Century Scholars office

SUBMITTING THE FAFSA (FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID)

FAFSA DEADLINE

You must submit your FAFSA by March 10th and make any necessary updates or corrections to your FAFSA by May 15th

WHAT IS THE FAFSA?

- The FAFSA is the Federal Application for Federal Student Aid
- Indiana requires any student who receives state aid to complete a FAFSA by March 10th
- Any corrections or updates must be made by May 15th
- The FAFSA is used to determine a student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

WHAT IS THE FAFSA?

- High school seniors must submit a FAFSA by March 10 and make updates/corrections by May 15 in order to be eligible to receive the Scholarship the following academic year.
- Seniors who miss the March 10 deadline have until December 31 to file their FAFSA, or they will lose their 21st Century Scholarship forever.

WHERE DO I FILE THE FAFSA?

- Complete the FAFSA online at FAFSA.GOV
- Avoid using services that charge you to complete a FAFSA
- Students who submit a FAFSA by paper must allow enough time for it to be received processed by the state deadlines

HOW DO I FILE THE FAFSA?

- Instructions for filing the FAFSA can be found online at FAFSA.GOV
- Read the Frequently Asked Questions and review the information carefully before completing the FAFSA
- You can receive direct help from a FAFSA expert by calling 1-800-433-3243 or by emailing FederalStudentAidConsumerService@ed.gov

ADDITIONAL FAFSA SUPPORT

- Most local communities host a FAFSA information session or Financial Aid night
- Organizations around the state have partnered with the 21st
 Century Scholars program to help Scholars and their parents
 complete the FAFSA
- To view a list of events and organizations that can help you file your FAFSA, visit the High School Seniors page of the 21st Century Scholars website at Scholars.IN.gov

OTHER SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

- 21st Century Scholars Outreach staff are conducting Senior Affirmation meetings around the state from November to March
- Senior Affirmation Meetings provide important information about the FAFSA, the Senior Affirmation process, and information on what students must do after high school to maintain eligibility for the 21st Century Scholarship

OTHER FAFSA INFORMATION

- Parents and Scholars must use a Personal Identification Number (PIN) to sign their FAFSA
- Obtain your PIN by visiting PIN.ED.GOV
- Both the parent and student or legal guardian must sign the FAFSA using their PIN each and every time the FAFSA is submitted or updated
- Students and parents can submit their FAFSA before taxes are filed by estimating income and updating it later

AFTER YOU FILE YOUR FAFSA

- After you submit your FAFSA, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) via email (if you filed your FAFSA online)
- It is important that you review your SAR carefully as soon as you receive it
- Any corrections or updates to your FAFSA must be made and received by May 15th
- Check the email account included on your FAFSA after it is submitted for important notices including whether or not there are errors on your FAFSA that must be corrected

eSTUDENT

- eStudent is the State's self-service website for Indiana students who have filed a FAFSA
- eStudent allows students to see if there are any issues with their FAFSA that could prevent them from receiving financial aid
- eStudent allows students to update their school choices or the school they plan on attending when they receive their Scholarship
- Signup for eStudent at IN.gov/che/estudent

APPLYING TO COLLEGE

- 21st Century Scholars must apply for admission to an eligible college or university as a high school senior
- The earlier you begin the college application process, the better
- Colleges may have application deadline earlier than March 10th; check with your college choices for more information on school-specific deadlines

MAINTAINING YOUR SCHOLARSHIP

- File a FAFSA each year whether you plan to attend college or not
- Enroll in college as a full-time student within one year of high school graduation
- Continue to honor the 21st Century Scholars Pledge
- Enroll in an eligible Indiana college, university, or proprietary school
- Be a full-time student in college
- Complete at least 30 credit hours each academic year
- Maintain Indiana residency

CONGRATULATIONS, 21st CENTURY SCHOLAR!